Iowa Chess News

En Passant

Volume 61, Issue 1 Iowa State Chess Association January 2021

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Note: Most Memberships have lapsed. If your name is not present, please let Ben Darr know and he will help renew your membership.

The names of Patron members will be listed in every issue of *En Passant*. The extra money will be added to the IASCA budget and spent as the membership directs.

During the States Cup, Team Iowa took turns streaming their team members' games. Above is James Neal with guest Abhyudaya Shukla streaming around Halloween.

Below are all of the tournaments scheduled in Iowa

Currently—due to the pandemic, Iowa does not have any tournaments scheduled in the near future.

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Join the Iowa State Chess Association!

The Iowa State Chess Association is a non-profit organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of chess in Iowa.

Join or renew by sending dues to the IASCA Secretary:

Benjamin Darr
419 Winona St.
Dubuque, IA 52001

Or Join on our website via Iowa-Chess.org

Membership Dues:

Regular	$10 for 1 year
	$20 for 2 years
Patron:	$25 per year
Affiliates:	$15 per year

Hello From the Editor:

Hello, I am Cub Noble, I am a Class A player here in Iowa and have been playing competitive chess for about a decade.

I competed in the Closed tournament in 2019 (scoring 0.5/5) and my high US Chess rating was around 1975.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, I wrote a couple of newsletters for the Cedar Falls area. As a result, I was asked to help out with sending the En Passant to the rest of the state.

Inside, you will see contributions from myself, Michael Takahashi and Jim Hodina.

Due to the virus, most spring and early summer tournaments were cancelled, but the first part of the year had quite a bit of excitement!

I hope everyone has been, is, and will continue to be safe during these uncertain times.

Enjoy the chess!

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MY COACH, IMPRESSED I DIDN'T TAKE A SEEMINGLY HANGING PAWN BECAUSE IT DROPS A PIECE AFTER A FIVE MOVE SEQUENCE
ME, NOT SEEING THE HANGING PAWN

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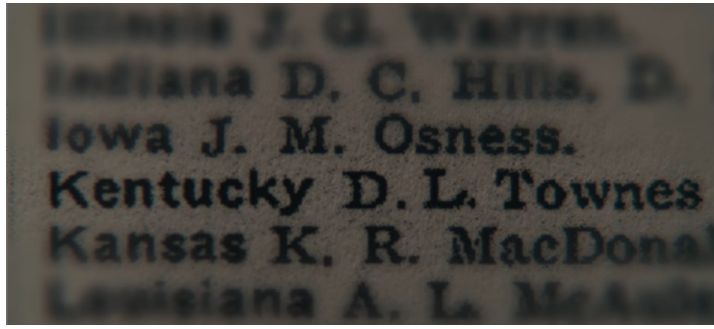
Queen's Gambit

By Cub Noble and Nick Osness

At the end of October, Netflix released a mini-series – Queen's Gambit the story of a young female player during the Cold War who rose through addiction to become one of the strongest players in the world. The mini-series was based on a 1983 novel of the same name by Walter Tevis. The show has been enjoyed by both chess enthusiasts and those who have no knowledge of the game alike.

The show was also released at a great time. While the world is still battling with lockdowns and gathering in groups is frowned upon or illegal, chess is seeing a historic boom. According to Netflix, Queen's Gambit reported 63 million views in the first 4 weeks, it was in the top 10 in 92 countries and ranked number 1 in 63 countries. According to Bloomberg since the release of the mini-series on October 23rd, Chess.com saw a spike of 2 million new players and an average of 5 million more games played a day. According to the New York Times, eBay has seen a 215% increase in sales of chess equipment and accessories, and Goliath Games has seen a 1,000% increase in chess set sales. Several IASCA members have also been reached out to by news stations to do an interview describing the impact of Queen's Gambit on Iowa's Scholastic Scene.

There are some Iowa tie ins to the series as well. We were contacted by Nick Osness who spotted his father's name, John M. Osness, in one of the shots of the Chess Review that the main character, Beth Harmon was referencing during the 3rd episode.



From Nick - "Of great interest to me, name is the name of my father, John M. Osness! See attached photo I took of this scene. He died in 1999 so you all may not know about his role in Iowa chess. For several decades in the latter part of the 20th century he was very involved in the Association including editor of En Passant and director of many, many chess tournaments in Iowa including the State Championships and Iowa Opens. He was also a very good 'Middle Class' player."

John M. Osness has been described as the Mr. Chess of Iowa by Ron Nurmi – "He was an organizer and a player from Waterloo. He actually was involved with re-writing the USCF chess rules back in the early '70s. He was the guiding force for chess much through the '50s, '60s and '70s in Iowa. The Iowa State Chess Association probably wouldn't be around—it might be—but he was a driving force to keep chess and maintain chess. "

Nick provided a screenshot from the 3rd episode of the series (no spoilers) along with the Chess Review magazine they are referencing from July 1963, complete with the alphabetical error in the state organization.

Though Iowa directly may not have received direct attention as other locations during the miniseries, we as chess players can appreciate the attention to detail this series provided including hiring Garry Kasparov as a chess consultant, having all the game boards feature real positions that the actors and actresses needed to memorize (even when those movements aren't in frame), and capturing the feel of chess in the time period. This series has brought millions of new eyes and new players to this game. Add to that, the ease of chess streaming, online videos, and online playing – the chess scene as a whole is growing at an incredible pace which helps each and every member of our community.

CHESS REVIEW

THE PICTURE CHESS MAGAZINE

Volume 31 Number 7 July 1963

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I. A. Horowitz

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"IMMORTAL" POSTMORTEM

Christopher Becker's article on page 94, March issue, has evoked a reply by Master Yakov Neishtadt as below, and that in turn an answer from Mr. Becker.

We believe Mr. Becker meant to give a historical review and some comment, but not meant as criticism of Master Neishtadt. As to the disagreements on analytic points, we are content to let readers and other annotators judge. It is clear, however, that the Postmortem continues to be "Immortal."—Ed.

Dear Mr. Editor!

In your March number, I read the article by Christopher Becker on the "Immortal" game, Anderssen–Kieseritzky. The occasion for the article was my evaluation of the introductory move to the combination: 18 B–Q6.

[We give here the position immediately prior to 18 B–Q6.—Ed.]

"At White's disposal," I wrote in my book 'Chess before Steinitz,' besides the flashy move chosen by Anderssen there was also another, less [illegible] tinuation of the attack thereafter I gave the var this opinion was based.

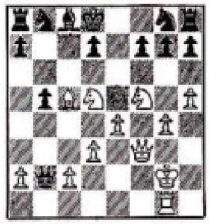
My opinent is asha Anderssen: "Now come master Neishtadt, and Before Steinitz, publish Moscow, he gives yet tion of Anderssen's fina and, in the present writ fails, like Steinitz and The indictment agains formidable. 'The combi a "stroke of genius" wa best continuation of the sacrifice must be not

quotation is from near the top of the second column of the introduction to The "Immortal Postmortem" on page 94, March issue—Ed.]

C. Becker thinks that, after 18 B–K3, White's attack is met by the move 18 . . . K–Q1, which has been ignored up to now: [quoted from third paragraph, second column, page 96.—Ed.] "After 18 B–K3, K–Q1, it is not at all evident that White should play to win. If 19 BxB, QxR† 20 K–N2, Q–N7, White is a Rook down and has no forcing continuation for the moment . . . . Certainly, Black seems to have chances in this line not only for a draw, but even for an eventual win (perhaps not against Anderssen, but possibly against some of his critics)."

On this variation, the author has based his criticism of the book Chess Before Steinitz, and the whole argumentation of his article.

But let us examine the critical position [This is after 18 B–K3, K–Q1 19 BxB, QxR† 20 K–N2, Q–N7.—Ed.]:



Looking at the diagram, it is easy to see that Black's position is completely hopeless. White can win in several ways.

What, for instance, can Black do after 21 Q–B2, which threatens 22 B–N6†, PxB (or 22 . . . K–K1 23 N–Q6† and 24 QxP

Nick provided us the July 1963 issue of the Chess Review they referenced in the show.

States Cup

By Cub Noble and Jim Hodina

During the 2020 lockdowns, there have been new and innovative ways that players and spectators have been viewing and playing chess. A new method this year was the 2020 States Cup. There were 30 states that sported 4 person teams that played on a weekly basis from September to November. The average rating of the team had to be below 2200.

An added twist was a 5th member of the team, was required to steam the tournament on Twitch. Team Iowa streamed every week with contributions from Jim Hodina, Tim McEntee, James Neal, Michael Takahashi, and Cub Noble.

During each match, the four Iowa players would play the four members of the other team.

Round 1 - Iowa's board 1 would play their board 4, Round 2 – board 1 would play board 3 until the last round where each player was playing their respective board.

Iowa alternated between 8 players and sported one of the strongest teams in the field averaging between 2171 and 2193 based on the week. During the regular season, Iowa scored 6 out of 7 defeating teams from Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, and Kansas only losing a close fight with Oklahoma 7-9. The 6-1 record was enough to advance on to the playoffs where they beat Illinois (again) then lost to the eventual champions of Washington, but they were able to beat Virginia to secure a 3rd place victory.

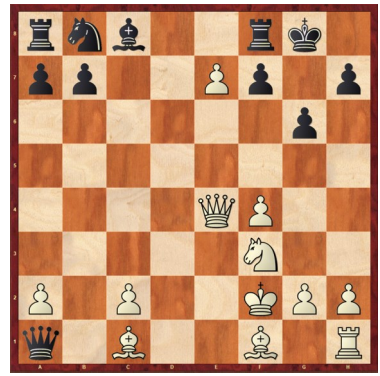
TEAM IOWA ROSTER			Opponent
			Date
Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating ***
NM Arshaq Saleem	tactwiz	14163196	2276
NM Joseph Wan	yuuki-asuna	14023940	2257
NM Tim McEntee	timcent	12298150	2200
NM Kushan Tyagi	dragonkt105	13011217	2184
NM James Neal	Jneezy86	12884217	2174
Michael Takahashi	Inspired02	14333301	2134
Anish Lodh	SudaKulk	14680747	2092
Nathan Chen	AndyDwyer	15213735	2046
	Team Rating		

* Rating is US Chess OTB Standard Rating, September Supplement

Tactwiz (NM Arshaq Saleem) (2273) - Titus369 (NM Andrew Titus) (2346)
States Cup Rapid 2020.21.10
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qa4 a6 8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Bd2 Nbd7 11.Ba5 Nb6 12.Nbd2 Rc8 13.Qd3 c5 14.dxc5 Qxd3 15.exd3 Na4 16.b4 Bd8 17.Nb3 Nc3 18.Nfd4 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Bxa5 20.Nxa5 Rfd8 21.Nac6 Rd7 22.Rfc1 Na4 23.f4 Nd5 24.Rab1 Ndc3 25.Rb3 Nxa2 26.Rc2 N2c3 27.Rbxc3 Nxc3 28.Rxc3 f6 29.Ra3 e5 30.fxe5 fxe5 31.Nf3 e4 32.Nfe5 Rdc7 33.d4 Rxc6 34.Nxc6 Rxc6 35.d5 Rf6 36.c6 Rf8 37.Re3 Re8 38.d6 Kf7 39.d7 Rd8 40.c7 Rxd7 41.c8Q Rd2+ 42.Kh3 Rd6 43.Qc7+ Ke6 44.Rxe4+ Kd5 45.Rd4+ Kxd4 46.Qxd6+ Kc4 47.Qc5+ Kb3 48.Kg2 h6 49.g4 1-0

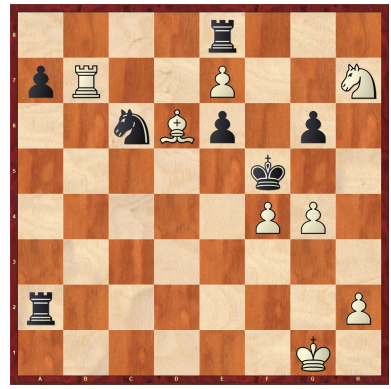
Itschika (NM Joseph Wan) (2572) LordVeldergrath (FM Jason Morefield)(2412) States Cup Rapid 2020.14.11

e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. f4 Bg7 5. Nf3 c5 6. dxc5 Qa5 7. Qd4 (7. Bd3 Qxc5 8. Qe2 O-O 9. Be3 Qa5 10. O-O Bg4 11. Qf2 Bxf3) **7... O-O 8. cxd6 Nxe4 9. Qxe4 Bxc3+ 10. bxc3 Qxc3+ 11. Kf2 Qxa1 12. dxe7** (Diagram next column)
12...Re8 13. Bc4 Qf6 14. Ba3 Be6 15. Bxe6 Qxe6 16. Qxe6 fxe6



(after 12. dxe7)

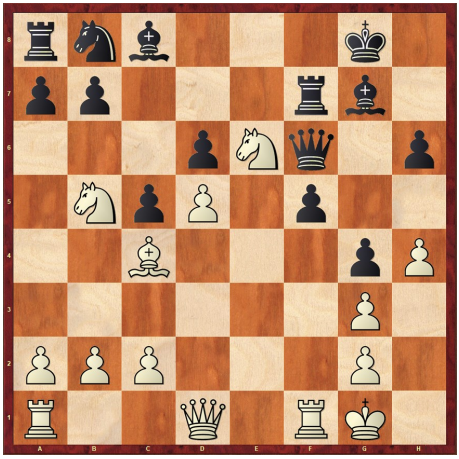
17. Rd1 Nc6 18. Rd7 Rac8 19. Ng5 Nb8 20. Rxb7 Rxc2+ 21. Kg1 Rxa2 22. Bd6 Nc6 23. Ne4 Kf7 24. Ng5+ Kf6 (24...Kg8 25. Rc7 Nd4 26. Ne4 Kf7 27. Ng5+) **25. Nxh7+ Kf5** (25... Kg7 26. Ng5 a5 27. Rc7 Nb4 28. Nxe6+ Kf7 29. Ng5+ Kg7 30. Be5+ Kg8 31.Ne4 Nd5 32. Rd7) **26. g4+**



Kxg4 27. Nf6+ Kf5 28. Nxe8 Nd4 29. Ng7+ Ke4 30. e8=Q Nf3+ 31. Kf1 Nxh2+ 32. Ke1 Nf3+ 33. Kd1 Rd2+ (33... Ra1+ 34. Kc2) **34. Kc1 Rxd6 35. Qxg6+ Kxf4 36. Nxe6+ Ke5 37. Rb5+ Rd5 38. Qh5+ 1-0**

Dragonkt105 (NM Kushan Tyagi) (2131) acashmoney (NM Aakaash Meduri) (2235) 2020 States Cup rapid 31.10.2020

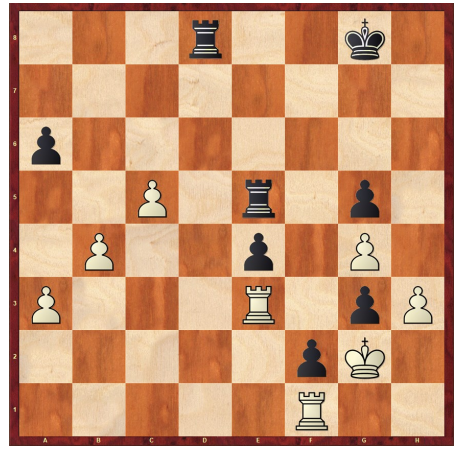
1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 h6 3.Bh4 g5 4.e3 Nf6 5.Bg3 d6 6.h4 g4 7.Ne2 Nh5 8.Nf4 Nxg3 9.fxg3 e6 10.Nc3 Qf6 11.e4 c6 12.exf5 exf5 13.d5 Bg7 14.Bc4 c5 15.0-0 0-0 16.Ne6 Rf7 17.Nb5



17…Qe5 18.Nbc7 Bxe6 19.dxe6 Rxc7 20.e7+ Kh7 21.Re1 Qd4+ 22.Qxd4 Bxd4+ 23.Kh2 Nc6 24.e8Q Rxe8 25.Rxe8 Bxb2 26.Rf1 Ne7 27.Be6 Kg6 28.Rf8 Bf6 29.h5+ Kg5 30.Rf7 b5 31.Bxf5 Nxf5 32.Rxc7 Be5 33.Rxa7 Nxg3 34.Rf8 Nxh5+ 35.Kg1 Bd4+ 36.Kf1 Ng3+ 37.Ke1 h5 38.Rd7 Be5 39.Rh7 Kh4 40.Rb8 b4 41.Re8 Bd4 42.Rh6 Nf5 43.Rh7 Kg5 44.Rg8+ Kf6 45.Rxh5 Ne3 46.Rf8+ Ke7 47.Ra8 Nxc2+ 48.Kd2 Ne3 49.Kd3 Nxg2 50.Rg5 Ne3 51.Rg6 Kf7 52.Rxd6 g3 53.Ra7+ Ke8 54.Rb6 Bf6 55.Rxf6 g2 56.Rb6 c4+ 57.Ke4 Nd5 58.Rb8# 1-0

Thunda_King (NM James Neal) (1482) andysamuelson (FM Andy Samuelson)(2317) 2020 States Cup rapid 15.11.2020

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 a6 5.c4 Nc6 6.Qe3 g6 7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Nc3 0-0 10.h3 Bd7 11.Rb1 Rc8 12.b3 Qa5 13.Bb2 Rfe8 14.Rfc1 Be6 15.a3 Qc5 16.Qd2 Qa7 17.Bd3 Na5 18.Ba1 b6 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 Nb7 21.Nd4 Nc5 22.Nc6 Qd7 23.b4 Nxd3 24.Qxd3 e5 25.Bc3 Nh5 26.Bd2 f5 27.Be3 f4 28.Bxb6 e4 29.Qf1 f3 30.Be3 Qf7 31.g3 Bf6 32.Kh2 Ng7 33.Qe1 Nf5 34.Qd2 h5 35.Re1 h4 36.g4 Ne7 37.Bf4 Nxc6 38.dxc6 Rxc6 39.Rbc1 Bd8 40.Kh1 Bb6 41.Bxd6 Bxf2 42.Qxf2 Rxd6 43.Rc3 g5 44.Rce3 Qf4 45.c5 Rd5 46.Qh2 Rde5 47.Kg1 Qg3+ 48.Kh1 f2 49.Qxg3 hxg3 50.Rf1 Rd8 51.Kg2



51...Rd3 52.Rxg3 e3 53.Rxf2 Rxa3 54.Re2 Rb3 55.Rf3 Kg7 56.Kg3 Kg6 57.h4 Rxb4 58.h5+ Kg7 59.Rexe3 Rxc5 60.Re6 Rcc4 61.Rg6+ Kh7 62.Rxg5 Rb5 63.Rg6 a5 64.Rf7+ Kh8 65.Ra7 Rc8 66.Rh6+ Kg8 67.Rg6+ Kh8 68.Rga6 Rcc5 69.Kh4 Kg8 70.h6 Rc4 71.Rg7+ Kh8 72.Ra8+ 1-0

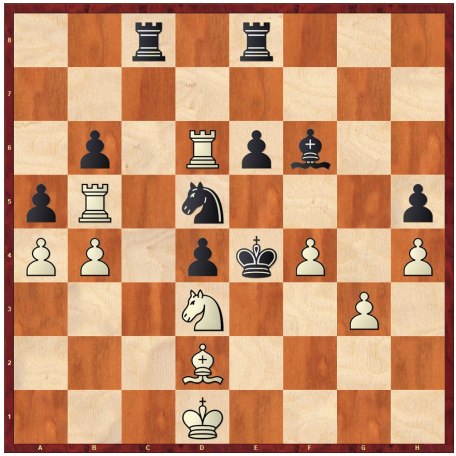
SudaKulk (Anish Lodh)(1859) Virginaknight (NM William Marcelino) (2247) 2020 States Cup rapid 15.11.2020

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.Nc3 e6 12.0-0 Be7 13.Qg4 Bf6 14.Rd1 0-0 15.Bxc6 Qxc6 16.Ne4 Nd5 17.Bh6 Kh8 18.Rac1 Qb6 19.Nxf6!

19...gxh6 20.Nd7 Qxb2 21.Nxf8 Rxf8 22.Rb1 Qxa2 23.Rxb7 Qa6 24.Rdb1 Nb6 25.Qf3 Qa2 26.Qf6+ Kg8 27.Rf1 Qa6 28.Qf3 Nd5 29.Rfb1 Nb6 30.h3 Qa2 31.Qg3+ Kh8 32.Qe5+ Kg8 33.Re1 Nc4 34.Qg3+ Kh8 35.Qc3 Qa6 36.d5+ e5 37.Rc7 Qa5 38.Rxc4 Qxc3 39.Rxc3 f6 40.d6 Rd8 41.Rd1 Kg7 42.d7 Kf7 43.Rc8 Ke7 44.Rxd8 Kxd8 45.Kh2 a5 46.Ra1 a4 47.Rxa4 Kxd7 48.Ra7+ Ke6 49.Rxh7 Kf5 50.Rxh6 Kg5 51.Rh8 f5 52.Rg8+ Kh5 53.g4+ fxg4 54.hxg4+ Kh6 55.Kg3 Kh7 56.Re8 Kg6 57.Rxe5 Kf6 58.f4 Kg6 59.f5+ Kg7 60.g5 Kf7 61.Kf4 Kf8 62.f6 Kf7 63.Kf5 Kg8 64.g6 Kf8 65.Re7 1-0

PircKID (Ananth Gottumukkala)(2203) AndyDwyer (Nathan Chen) (2205) 2020 States Cup rapid 08.11.2020

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nc6 5.g3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Re1 0-0 9.e5 Qc7 10.Qe2 g5 11.h3 Ng6 12.Nxg5 Qxe5 13.Qxe5 Ngxe5 14.f4 Ng6 15.c3 h6 16.Ngf3 b6 17.Nb3 a5 18.a4 Ba6 19.d4 Bc4 20.Nbd2 Bd3 21.Ne5 Ngxe5 22.dxe5 Rac8 23.Re3 Ba6 24.Nf3 d4 25.cxd4 cxd4 26.Rb3 Rb8 27.Bf1 Bxf1 28.Kxf1 Rfd8 29.Ne1 f6 30.exf6 Bxf6 31.Nd3 Kf7 32.Bd2 h5 33.Rb5 Rg8 34.Kf2 Kg6 35.Re1 Rge8 36.h4 Na7 37.Rb3 Nc6 38.Rc1 Ne7 39.Rb5 Nd5 40.Rc6 Rbc8 41.Rd6 Rc2 42.Ke1 Kf5 43.Kd1 Rcc8 44.b4 Ke4



15.g3 Bg4 16.Nh4 c6 17.e5 fxe5 18.Bh7+ Kh8 19.Rxf7 Be6 20.Rxe7 Bxe7 21.Ng6+ Kxh7 22.Nxe7+ Kh8 23.Ng6+ Kg8 24.Nxe5 Qg5 25.Nf4 Qf5 26.Qd2 Bxa2 27.c4 b5 28.cxb5 cxb5 29.Nfg6 Rad8 30.Qa5 Bd5 31.Qxa7 Qc2 32.Nf4 Bc4 33.Nh5 Qh7 34.Re4 Ra8 35.Qb7 Ra1+ 36.Kg2 Rd8 37.Nf6+ 37… gxf6 38.Rg4+ Kh8 39.Qb6 Qc2+ 40.Kf3 Rf1+ 0-1

45.Nf2+ Kf3 46.Nd3 axb4 47.Nxb4 Ne3+ 48.Bxe3 dxe3 49.Rxh5 Bb2 50.Nd3 e2+ 51.Ke1 Bc3# 0-1

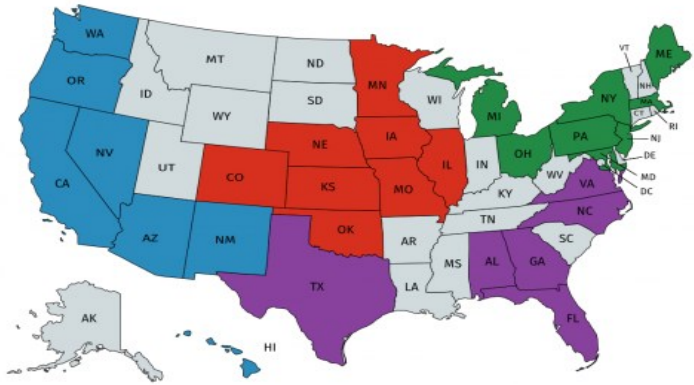
Termenoil (Rhett Langseth) (2143) Inspired02 (Michael Takahashi) (2071) 2020 States Cup Rapid 23.09.2020

andysamuelson (FM Andy Samuelson)(2246) timcent (NM Tim McEntee) (1890) 2020 States Cup rapid 31.10.2020

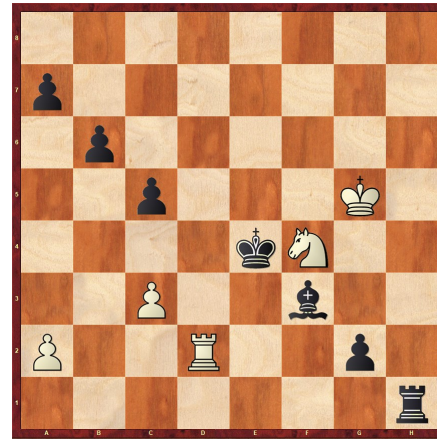
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 Bf5 4.f3 h6 5.Bxf6 exf6 6.e4 dxe4 7.fxe4 Bg6 8.Nf3 Bb4 9.Bd3 0-0 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Ne2 Bh5 12.c3 Bd6 13.Qc2 Re8 14.Rae1 Ne7

1.d4 e6 2.Bf4 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.Ne5 0-0 8.Nd2 Ne7 9.Qf3 b6 10.g4 Bb7 11.g5 Nd7 12.Rg1 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Nc6 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Qh5+ Kg8 16.Rg3 Ndxe5 17.Rh3 f6 18.g6 (diagram on the next page)

The 30 participating states spanned across the country with varying time zones and days to accommodate the players and attract more viewers on Twitch. Iowa went 6-1 in their division.



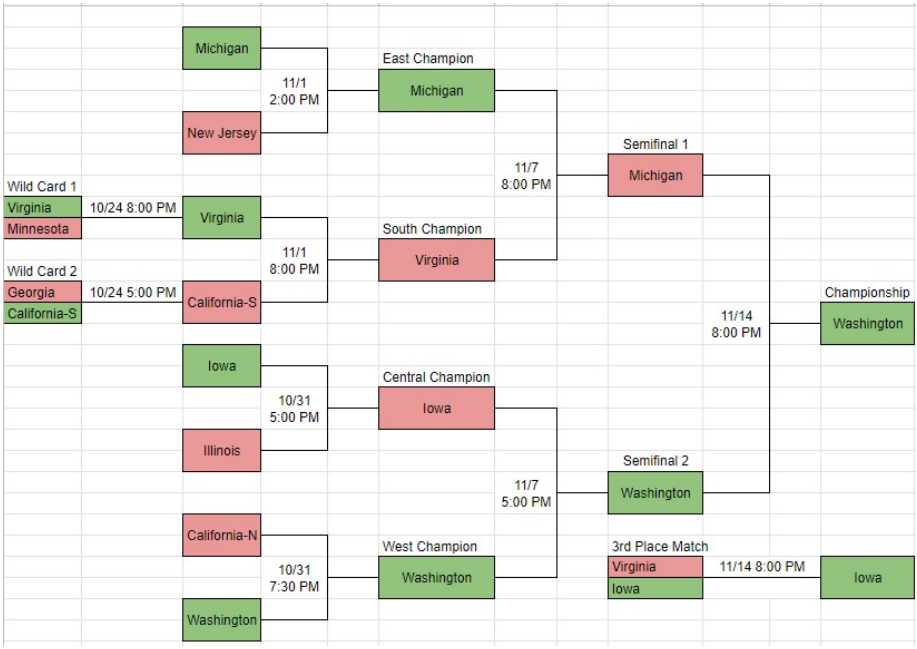
18...Nxg6 19.Qxg6 Ne7 20.Qh5 Qe8 21.Qh7+ Kf7 22.Qh5+ Kg8 23.Qh7+ Kf7 24.Bh6 Nf5 25.Rg3 Rg8 26.Rg6 Nxh6 27.Rxh6 Ke7 28.Rh3 Qf7 29.Qd3 Rh8 30.e4 Kd7 31.exd5 exd5 32.0-0-0 Rxh3 33.Qxh3+ Kc7 34.Nf3 Re8 35.Qf5 Qe6 36.Qxe6 Rxe6 37.Rg1 g5 38.Kd2 d4 39.Ne1 dxc3+ 40.bxc3 Rd6+ 41.Ke3 Re6+ 42.Kd2 Ba6 43.Nc2 Re2+ 44.Kc1 Rxf2 45.Rh1 Bb7 46.Re1 Rxh2 47.Re7+ Kc6 48.Rf7 Rf2 49.Ne3 Ba6 50.Ng4 Rf1+ 51.Kd2 f5 52.Ne5+ Kd5 53.Ng6 Rf2+ 54.Ke3 Rf1 55.Rd7+ Ke6 56.Nf8+ Kf6 57.Rd2 f4+ 58.Ke4 Re1+ 59.Kf3 Bb7+ 60.Kg4 Rg1+ 61.Kh3 Bf3 62.Nd7+ Ke7 63.Ne5 g4+ 64.Kh4 Rh1+ 65.Kg5 Rf1 66.Ng6+ Ke6 67.Nxf4+ Ke5 68.Ng6+ Ke4 69.Kh4 Rh1+ 70.Kg5 g3 71.Nf4 g2



72.Nxg2 Rg1 73.Kh4 Rxg2 74.Rd7 Rxa2 75.Kg3 Be2 76.Kf2 Bd3+ 77.Ke1 c4 78.Kd1 Ke3 79.Re7+ Be4 80.Kc1 b5 81.Re5 Ra6 82.Kb2 Rb6 83.Re7 a5 84.Ra7 a4 85.Ka3 Kd3 86.Kb4 Rb7 87.Ra8 Rh7 88.Rd8+ Kc2 89.Re8 Bd3 90.Re5 Ra7 91.Ka3 Kxc3 92.Rxb5 Bc2 93.Rh5 Rc7 94.Rh3+ Bd3 95.Kxa4 Ra7+ 96.Kb5 Kd2 97.Rh2+ Be2 98.Kb4 c3 99.Kb3 Rb7+ 100.Ka2 c2 101.Rg2 Ra7+ 102.Kb3 c1Q 0-1

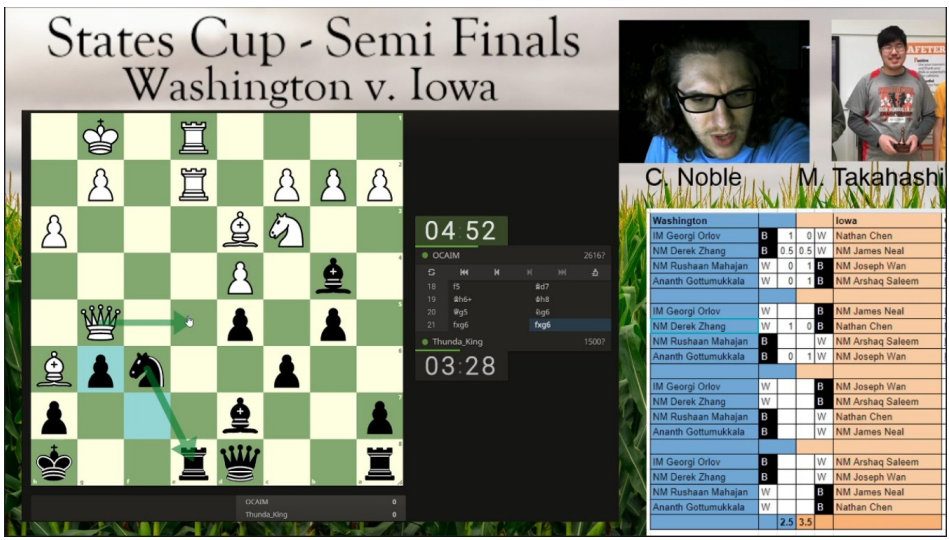
The Regular Season standings for the Central Division of the States Cup.

#	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Match	USAT	Game
3	Iowa	8.5	12	9	8.5	7	14	11	6	208.5	70
2	Illinois	10.5	9.5	11	6.5	10	7.5	9	5	193.25	64
5	Minnesota	12.5	9	9	12	7.5	8.5	5	5	182.25	63.5
6	Missouri	6.5	13	7	13	13	10	7	4	202.5	69.5
1	Colorado	8	6.5	7	10	8.5	6	10.5	3.5	181	56.5
8	Oklahoma	8	7	5	3	9	12	7	2.5	168	51
4	Kansas	3.5	2	10	5	6	1	9	2	101.5	36.5
7	Nebraska	5.5	4	6	4	3	4	5.5	0	124.75	32



The above image is the playoff bracket for the States Cup, Iowa won 3rd place after a loss to Washington, but beat Virginia.

Every week, a different member of the Iowa team would take turns streaming on the Twitch.tv platform.



States Cup Results by Round

Week 1				2171.5	2060.5
	Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating ***	**Score**
	NM Arshaq Saleem	tactwiz	14163196	2276	2.0
	NM Kushan Tyagi	dragonkt105	13011217	2184	3.5
	Michael Takahashi	Inspired02	14333301	2134	2.5
	Anish Lodh	SudaKulk	14680747	2092	0.5

Week 2				2189.75	1904.5
	Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating ***	**Score**
	NM Arshaq Saleem	tactwiz	14163196	2276	4
	NM Joseph Wan	yuuki-asuna	14023940	2257	4
	Michael Takahashi	Inspired02	14333301	2134	1
	Anish Lodh	SudaKulk		2092	3

Week 3				2193.75	2162
	Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating ***	**Score**
	NM Joseph Wan	yuuki-asuna	14023940	2257	4
	NM Tim McEntee	timcent	12298150	2200	2.5
	NM Kushan Tyagi	dragonkt105	13011217	2184	1
	Michael Takahashi	Inspired02	14333301	2134	1.5

Week 4				2191.25	2159
	Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating ***	**Score**
	NM Joseph Wan	yuuki-asuna	14023940	2257	3.5
	NM Tim McEntee	timcent	12298150	2200	2
	NM James Neal	Jneezy86	12884217	2174	2
	Michael Takahashi	Inspired02	14333301	2134	1

Week 5				2186	2027
	Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating ***	**Score**
	NM Arshaq Saleem	tactwiz	14163196	2276	2.5
	NM Tim McEntee	timcent	12298150	2200	1.5
	NM James Neal	Jneezy86	12884217	2174	2.0
	Anish Lodh	SudaKulk	14680747	2092	1.0

Week 6				2195	
	Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating ***	**Score**
	NM Arshaq Saleem	tactwiz	14163196	2276	4.0
	NM Joseph Wan	yuuki-asuna	14023940	2257	4.0
	NM Tim McEntee	timcent	12298150	2200	2.0
	Nathan Chen	AndyDwyer	15213735	2046	4.0

Week 7				2190.75	
	Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating ***	**Score**
	NM Arshaq Saleem	tactwiz	14163196	2276	3.5
	NM Joseph Wan	itschika	14023940	2257	3
	NM Kushan Tyagi	dragonkt105	13011217	2184	3
	Nathan Chen	AndyDwyer	15213735	2046	2.5

Playoff - Round 1				2193.75	
	Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating**	**Score**
	NM Joseph Wan	itschika	14023940	2257	4
	NM Tim McEntee	timcent	12298150	2200	2.5
	NM Kushan Tyagi	dragonkt105	13011217	2184	2
	Michael Takahashi	Inspired02	14333301	2134	0.5

Playoff - Semi Finals					
	Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating ***	**Score**
	NM Arshaq Saleem	tactwiz	14163196	2276	1.5
	NM Joseph Wan	itschika	14023940	2257	3.5
	NM James Neal	Thunda_King	12884217	2174	1.5
	Nathan Chen	AndyDwyer	15213735	2046	1

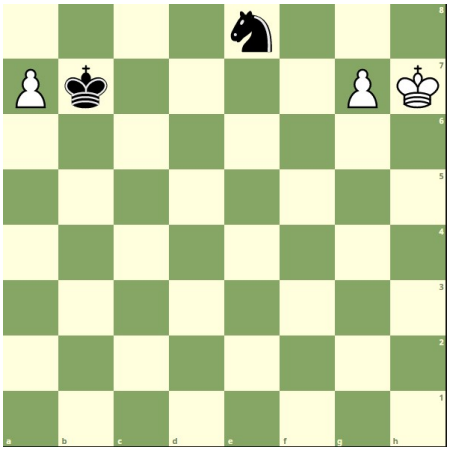
Playoff - Consolation					
	Name	**lichessid**	**US CHESS ID**	**Rating ***	**Score**
	NM Joseph Wan	itschika	14023940	2257	3.5
	NM Tim McEntee	timcent	12298150	2200	0.5
	NM James Neal	Thunda_King	12884217	2174	2.5
	Anish Lodh	SudaKulk	14680747	2092	2

Puzzles

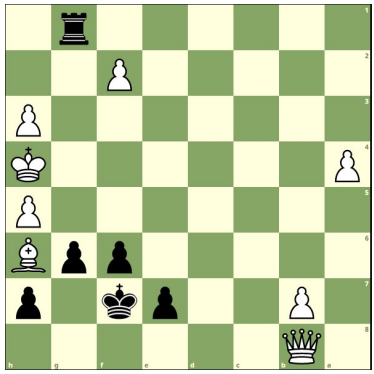
"Chess is 99% Tactics"

Below are 10 problems. How you should approach these problems are similar to games. Evaluate the position, then make your candidates moves. When you are satisfied with your answer, write down your answers. When you are done, compare it to the solutions at the back of this issue.

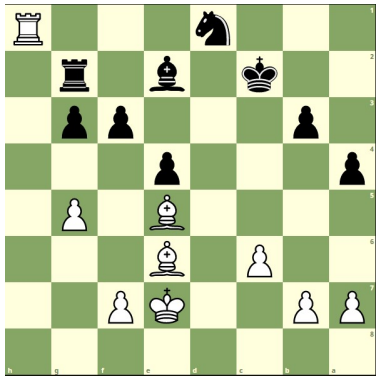
Problems 1-3 are "Easy".
Problems 4-6 are "Medium".
Problems 7-9 are Hard".
Problem 10 is "Very Hard".



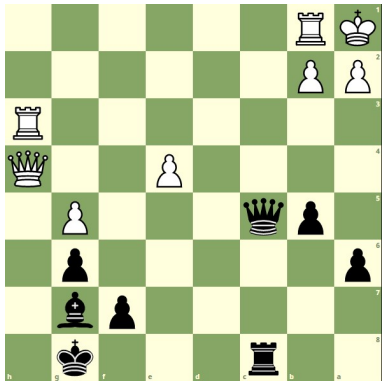
1. White to Move



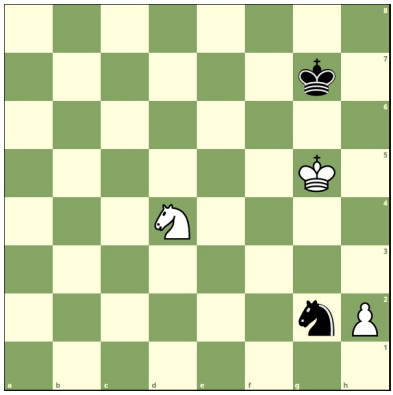
2. Black to Move



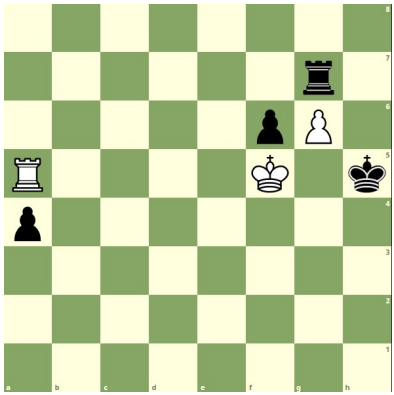
3. White to Move



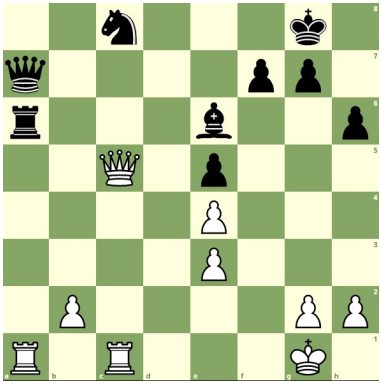
4. Black to Move



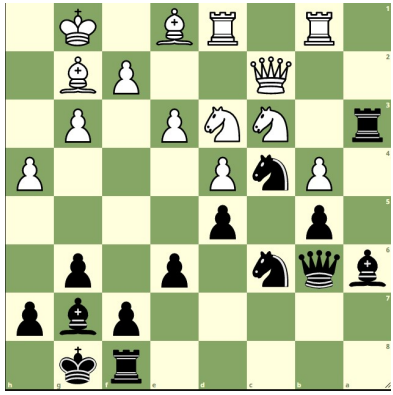
5. White to Move



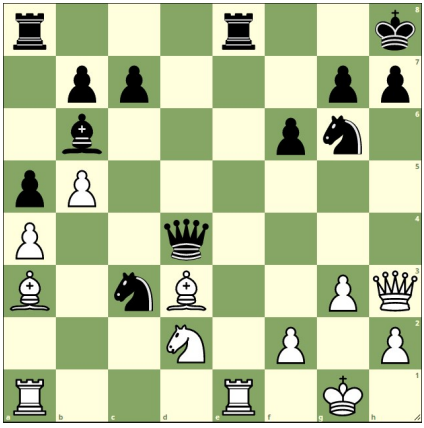
8. White to Move



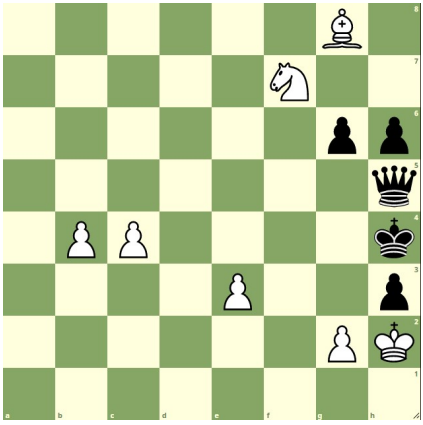
6. White to Move



9. Black to Move



7. White to Move



10. White to Move

IASCA Hall of Fame

The IASCA Hall of Fame is for Iowa Chess Players who have made their impact on the chess scene during their life time during the state's 100+ year chess history.

During the initial year, 6 members may be voted in. For the next 5 years, 3 members may be added.

Nominations for the Hall of Fame must be submit to the En Passant Editor prior to the January issue deadline (December 15th). Any member of the IASCA may nominate members to be entered into the IASCA Hall of Fame.

The nominations that are collected will be published in the January issue of the magazine, then they will be voted on during the Annual meeting occurring in the Spring the nominations with the highest majority vote will be admitted into the Hall for that year.

The 6 nominations for 2021 are as follows—

Orestes Augustus Brownson, Jr.

Nominated by Ben Darr

Though his father was a renowned political philosopher, Brownson, Jr was best known as the editor of the *Dubuque Chess Journal*, the premier chess magazine in the United States in the 1870s, and one of only two dedicated English-language chess publications in the world at the time. The Dubuque Chess Journal represents a major part of Iowa's role in the world of chess. Brownson also authored *The Book of the Second American Chess Congress Held at Cleveland, Ohio,* and was an avid composer and collector of chess problems. In these pursuits, Brownson did more than anyone else in his era to promote chess in Iowa.

His advice on how to improve at chess is still sound over a century later: "to learn chess quick and fast, play slowly and carefully several hours a day and study the best chess books you can get hold of very diligently and thoroughly: this will soon bring out what chess there is in you, if you are careful to play only with chess players

only with chess players stronger than yourself. As you live far from a large city, two or three hundred games by correspondence would be of assistance to you." Brownson resided in Dubuque from the 1860s until his death in 1892.

Ben Munson

Nominated by James Neal

I moved to West Des Moines when I was in high school and casually played Chess with my brother and father during the summers. It wasn't until I entered Valley High School that I was introduced to the competitive side of chess through Ben Munson.

During my short scholastic experience, from 9th – 12th grade, I had the pleasure of playing for Ben and competing against players from the one of many schools he was involved with.

His passion for the game is what brought me into the chess scene and, in my eyes, I would consider him worthy of Hall of Fame status.

Bob Long

Nominated by Bill Broich

There is no Iowa chess personality better known on a worldwide basis than Bob Long. Bob published over one hundred chess books and many are authored by IMs and GMs. Bob's obituary can be found in chess publications throughout the world.

From Chessbase—"Since 1985 Long has reviewed or commented on about 2,000 chess books, magazines, equipment, DVDs, and websites… He has published nearly 140 items not including DVDs CDs or journals."

Bob Long's Blog—
https://bobthechesser.wordpress.com/

US Chess Obituary of Long—
https://new.uschess.org/news/chess-publisher-bob-long-dead-74

John Penquite

Nominated by Mark Capron

John Penquite was the first person to crack the 2900 mark. He did it in Postal Chess and reached an amazing 2939 after winning the 1990 Golden Knights Tournament in 1993!

John had a 58 game winning streak in Postal Chess, no losses, no draws! John was no slouch over the board either and was considered a strong master. When John played over the board there were not ratings as we know them today. John won (or tied for) the Iowa State Championship 8 times!

No doubt would have been several more as he moved out of Iowa for an extended time. His championships spanned from 1951 – 1973, 22 years! John was a charter member of the Iowa Chess News En Passant in 1961. In 1963 he was elected as an IASCA Tournament Director. He was the games editor for the En Passant in 1971. He was the president of the IASCA 1970-1972.

1951 State Champion (A.W. Davis, Philip Gilbertson, & F.D. Wilson)
1952 State Champion (17 years old)
1953 State Champion
1959 State Champion (tied with Raymond Ditrichs and Leo Raterman)
1961 State Champion
1971 State Champion (Jon Frankle)
1972 State Champion (Jon Frankle)
1973 State Champion (Dan Harger, Doug Eckley, Ray Ditrichs, Mark Connor)
1990 Golden Knights Champion

Mitch Weiss

Nominated by Jim Hodina

Mitch is a six-time Iowa State Champion between the years of 1981 to 1988. During this period, Mitch was also the editor of the IASCA En Passant. He continued playing throughout the country with a peak rating of 2360 in 1995. Mitch continues to play chess, although at a less frequent pace.

He was active enough to qualify for the Iowa Closed Championship in 2002, finishing with 4.0 pts - a half point behind first place.

Playing a few tournaments through 2010, Mitch came out to play and win the first Iowa Senior Championship in 2017.

Mitch is an Original Life Master, which requires 300 games above a rating of 2200. Mitch's top FIDE rating was 2250 (currently 2240). Mitch was also a prolific correspondence player with a current rating of 2357

Iowa Closed Champion
1988 Mitch Weiss
1987 Mitch Weiss
1986 Mitch Weiss
1984 Mitch Weiss
1983 Mitch Weiss, Hugh Myers
1981 Mitch Weiss
1998 Iowa Open

Sylvio Scorza

Nominated by Mark Capron

Syl was a charter member of the Iowa Chess En Passant in 1961. Syl held several positions in the IASCA including Vice President from 1962-1964 and again in 1968 to 1981. He was appointed as the IASCA statistician in 1963 and from what can be gleaned from the En Passant's he would-hold this position today if it still existed.

In 1973 -1975 he was elected as the IASCA Tournament Director. Syl directed or helped direct many, many events too numerous to list. Syl was the Postal (correspondence) Chess Director for Iowa from sometime in the late 1970s to the early 1990s. Syl tied for the State Championship in 1964 after being runner up in 1963.

Syl again tied for the Championship inf 1974. In 1981 Syl was the state Senior Champion. According to the USCF online Syl's peak rating was 1889, however this only goes back to 1992 which was well past Syl's prime. He currently sports an 1802 correspondence rating.

1964 D. Dale Gillette, Richard Nassif, Dan Reynolds, Sylvio Scorza
1974 Dan Reynolds, Sylvio Scorza

Iowa Denker 2020 Annotated Game

By: Michael Takahashi

This year, I had the distinct honor of representing the Iowa State Chess Association as the high school representative to the 2020 National Denker Tournament of High School State Champions.

While the pandemic obviously altered this normally social, prestigious event, it did not dampen my excitement of playing in my first national invitational event.

It had been 10 grueling years of suffering, disappointment, unrelenting pain, and agony. Every year, I would attend the Barber/ Denker Qualifiers, with the hopes and aspirations of lifting the trophy, and yet every year I fell short. Oh, I came close on many occasions and suffered so many heartbreaking defeats.

However, my dream of representing my state seemed to be further and further in the distance. In 2013 and 2014, I missed out on a top 5 spot at the Barber on tiebreaks. In 2016, I lost to a 700 as the #2 seed in the Barber. I remember coming out of the room in tears and telling my mom: “I’m never going to do this.” In 2018 and 2019, I had lost two heartbreaking Denker playoffs, denied once again of the opportunity of a lifetime. The opportunity to represent my state at a national invitational tournament.

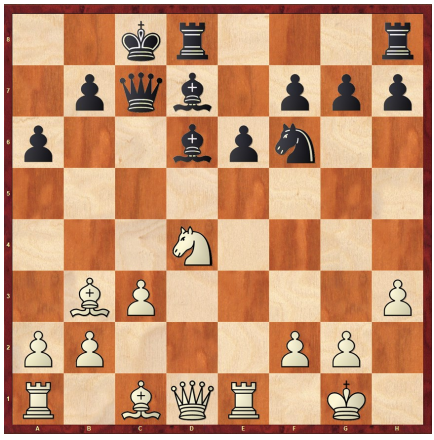
Then came 2020. It was my senior year of high school. Would it be heartbreak again or would I finish the mission I had started? As I walked into the tournament hall, I realized that the competition was on. I was tested right from the start. My first two rounds of the Denker Qualifier were close wins vs. Anirudh Soni (1580) and Joseph Pregon (1677), both featuring numerous lead changes and twists.

Having survived two very difficult challenges, I entered round 3 facing possibly my biggest challenge yet: USCF Expert Anish Lodh (2124). Our last encounter, at the 2019 Iowa Open, resulted in an Anish win but with chances for both sides. Given that the winner of this match would likely clinch the Denker, Anish and I were both doing everything we could to knock each other out. It was an incredible game. Luckily for me, he made the last mistake in a wild time scramble. After securing my spot at the Denker with a round 4 draw vs. Owen Fiedorowicz (1952), I had finally done it and joined in the renowned group of players to represent Iowa at the National Denker Tournament.

Lodh, Anish (2124) - Takahashi, Michael (2104)
Iowa Denker Qualifier Tournament**.** 2020.02.01

Going into round 3, Anish and I were the only undefeated players, both sporting 2-0 scores. The winner of this game would likely punch their ticket to the National Denker Tournament of Champions, thus both players, not fearing defeat, went all out to win this seemingly decisive game. With so much at stake, with two fighting spirits, and with the top 2 seeds in this event squaring off, it would be an epic contest. With all of that in mind, I looked for chaotic positions and fireworks. My desire to win this game was obvious from the very start.

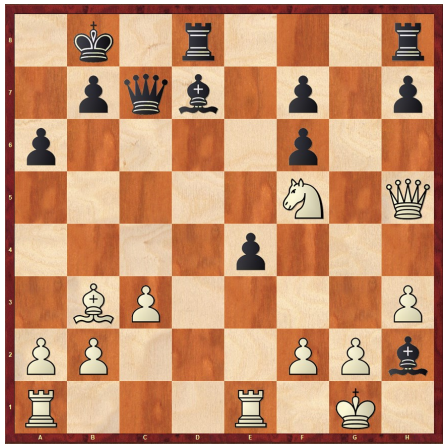
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.Ngf3 cxd4 6.Bc4 Qd6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Nbxd4 Nxd4 10.Nxd4 Qc7 11.Bb3 a6 12.Re1 Bd7 13.c3 Bd6 14.h3 0-0-0



Showing my intentions. I had considered 0-0, but like I said in my intro, I wanted chaos.

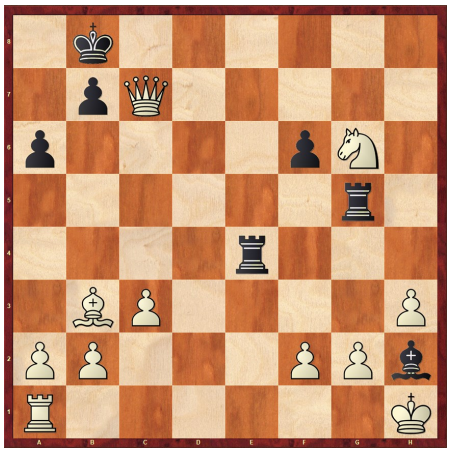
15.Qf3 Kb8 A strong prophylactic move! I wanted to play e5 here, but I realized I needed to make this move first. As it turns out, Kb8 indirectly supports e5. Let's see what happens had I played e5: (15... e5 16. Nf5 e4 17. Nxd6+ Nxd6 comes with check! Now we see the importance of Kb8. To get out of the way of the check.) **16.Bg5 e5!** In dynamic positions, initiative is of the utmost importance for the attacker. Once the initiative leaves, the static disadvantages that comes with the trade off for dynamic potenial will become exposed. Every move counts here in this type of position.

17.Bxf6 gxf6 18.Nf5 e4 19.Qh5 Bh2+?



Failing to capitalize on white's inaccuracy. Qc5! Was incredibly strong: (19... Qc5 20. Ng3 f5) This was the move I missed.

Now black is much better again with his mounting attack. **20.Kh1 Rhg8 21.Ne7 Rg5 22.Qxh7 Re8 23.Rxe4 Bf5 24.Qxf7 Bg6 25.Nxg6 Rxe4 26.Qxc7+??** Many inaccuracies had been made up to this point, but unfortunately, with under 5 seconds on his clock, Anish makes the final mistake. (26. Qxf6 This was the move that hands white the advantage! His 3 passed pawns more than compensate for the rook vs. minor piece. Bf4 27. Bc2 White is obviously better here. But with 5 seconds on the clock, proceedings are anything but straightforward.



26... Bxc7 27.Bc2 Re2 28.Rc1 Rxf2 Seeing that he could not put up any more resistance, Anish resigned. This was a wild game which featured many twists and turns. I clinched my first Denker with a draw in the last round. I had finally done it. Ten years of pain ended 2/1/ 2020. **0-1**

National Denker 2020 Annotated Game

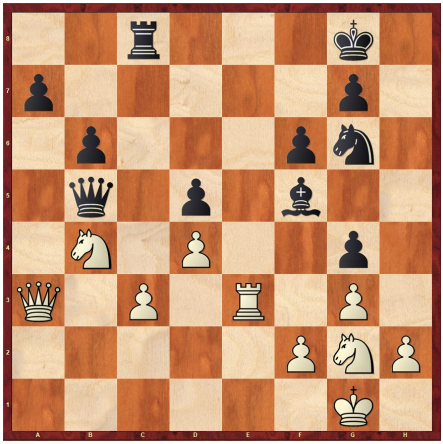
By: Michael Takahashi

Entering round 5 on the 2020 National Denker Tournament of Champions, I was 2-2, having won 2 convincing games vs lower rated players and losing 2 games vs two strong masters, (Andrew Zheng, rated 2297 from Maryland, and FM Aydin Turgut, rated 2379 from Indiana). In this game, I was facing Gabriel White, a strong player rated 1889 from Hawaii. I knew very well this would likely be my toughest lower rated player this tournament. Having blown many leads against lower rated foes in the Iowa Closed two weeks prior, I looked to right the ship. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5** This wasn't a surprise to me. I noticed that Gabriel White religiously plays the French Exchange, whether it be blitz, classical, or rapid games. Although it does tend to be drawish, it also offers both sides dynamic chances to play for the win. **4.Nf3 Bd6 5.Bd3 Ne7 6.0-0 Nbc6 7.c3 Bg4 8.Nbd2 Qd7 9.Re1 f6!?** I wanted to keep my options open, but it might not have been the best idea. I knew that after 0-0-0, the game would prove to be quite sharp where one tempo makes the world of difference.

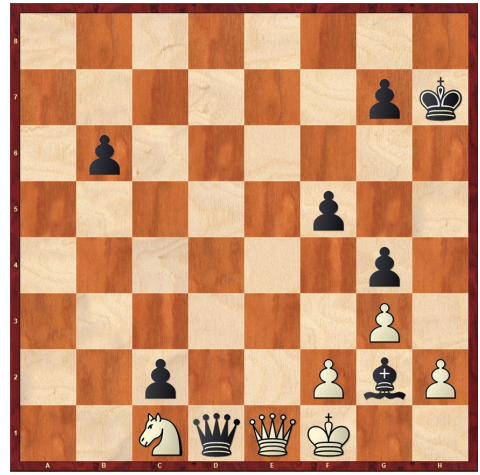
10.b4 A very curious move. Of course, white wants black to castle queenside, when the resulting position ends up in white's favor. However, it seems highly committal and black hasn't committed castling yet, so it may end up to be a waste of time. (10. h3 $1 Bh5 11. b4 $1 O-O 12. b5 Na5 $1 $13 {Black has achieved rough equality, when his knight does a surprisingly good job on a5, preventing white's liberating breaks such as c3 -c4.) **0-0 11.Qb3 Kh8** Here I became worried over white's pressure on the a2-g8 diagonal, so I made this prophylactic move. It turned out to be a good decision later on in the game. **12.a4** At the time I was playing this game, this was a novel idea to me. Usually. I had seen white play a2-a4 and b2-b4 when black castles long. The advantage of these pawn thrusts are clear: White gains space on the queenside and now threatens b4-b5 and Ba3, trading off black's strong dark squared bishop on d6. The drawback behind this strategy is that it commits white's pawns and may prove to be a weakness in the endgame with the exposure of weak squares such as c4. **Rae8 13.Ba3 Ng6 14.Bxg6** Although this move seemed normal during the game, white already trends in the wrong direction with this decision. I believe he calculated that he could put annoying pressure on the g6 pawn once the bishop is captured. However, if white can't put enough pressure on g6, his weak light squares will haunt him for the rest of the game. This kind of move highlights the disadvantage of pushing your pawns too early. Instead, g3! was the natural and stronger continuation: (14. g3 Although this does weaken white's kingside, it does take away the f4 square for the knight. Furthermore, it is not so clear how black will go about exploiting white's kingside weaknesses, which gives further merit to the prophylactic g2-g3. **hxg6 15.Nh4 Bf5 16.g3 g5 17.Ng2** White misses his last chance to trade off black's light squared bishop. Already at this point, he should have been aware of the danger signs in the position. Black's light squared bishop rules the board, with no other light squared bishop to oppose it. Generally speaking, bishops of opposite color favor the attacking side. In addition, his

weakening moves such as g2-g3 have left many squares in his camp vulnerable. **17… Ne7 18.Re3 c6 19.Rae1 Ng6 20.Qd1 Rxe3 21.Rxe3 Kg8 22.Qb3 Be6 23.Nf3 g4** Seizing control over the light squares. Black is clearly better.

24.Nfe1 Qf7 25.b5 Bxa3 26.Qxa3 Bf5 27.Qd6 cxb5 28.axb5 Rc8 29.Qa3 b6 30.Nd3 Qd7 31.Nb4 Qxb5 This allows unnecessary counterplay. Be4! was natural and strong, following the principle do not rush.



32.Qxa7 Be4 33.Qb7 Rc4 34.Qa8+ Kh7 35.Qa2 Ne7 36.Qa3 (36. Qe2 White had to stop Nf5, as the threats on white's kingside are just too strong Nf5 37. Rxe4 dxe4 38. Qxe4 Rxc3 39. Ne3 Rc1+ 40. Kg2 g6 41. Nbd5 Kh8) **36… Nf5** A neat tactic that nets a pawn **37.Re1 Nxd4 38.cxd4 Rxb4 39.Ne3 f5 40.Qc3 Rb3 41.Qd2 Rd3 42.Qc1 Qb4 43.Nc2 Qc3 44.Qg5 Qc8 45.Nb4 Rxd4 46.Rc1 Rc4 47.Rxc4 dxc4 48.Kf1 c3 49.Na2 c2 50.Nc1 Qd7 51.Qe3 Qd1+ 52.Qe1 Bg2+** Winning the queen and the game. How fitting that the usually weak light squared bishop in the French ended up deciding the contest! Here, my opponent resigned as he saw he could not put up any more resistance. **0-1**



Puzzle Answers

Below are the solutions to the 10 puzzles listed earlier in the newsletter.

Problem 1.

1. a8=Q+ Kxa8
2. g8=Q

Problem 2.

1. … g5+
2. Bxg5 fxg5#

Problem 3.

1. Ba6 Rc7
2. Bxb6

Problem 4.

1. … Bxb2
2. Rxb2 Qg1+
3. Rb1 Qd4+
4. Rb2 Rb1#

Or

2. Kxb2 Qd4+
3. Ka3 Qa4+
4. Kb2 Rc2+
5. Ka1

Problem 5.

1. Nc2 Kf7
2. Kg4 Kf6
3. Kg3 Kg5
4. Kxg2

Problem 6.

1. Qxa7 Rxa7
2. Rxc8+ Bxc8
3. Rxa7

Problem 7.

1. Rxe8+ Rxe8
2. Bxg6 Qxf2+
3. Kh1 Re1+
4. Rxe1 Qxe1
5. Nf1

Problem 8.

1. Ra8 Rxg6
2. Rh8+ Rh6
3. Rg8 Kh4
4. Rg1 Rh5+
5. Kf4 Kh3
6. Rh1+ Rg2
7. Rxh5

Problem 9.

1. … Bxd4
2. exd4 Nxd4
3. Qc1 Rxc3
4. Qxc3 Ne2+
5. Kh2 Nxc3

Problem 10.

1. g3+ Kg4
2. Bh7 Kf5
3. g4+ Kxg4
4. Bxg6 Qh4
5. Ne5+ Kg5
6. Nf3+ Kxg6
7. Nxh4+

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The Netflix mini series Queen's Gambit has taken the world by storm bringing chess attention to a large new global audience.